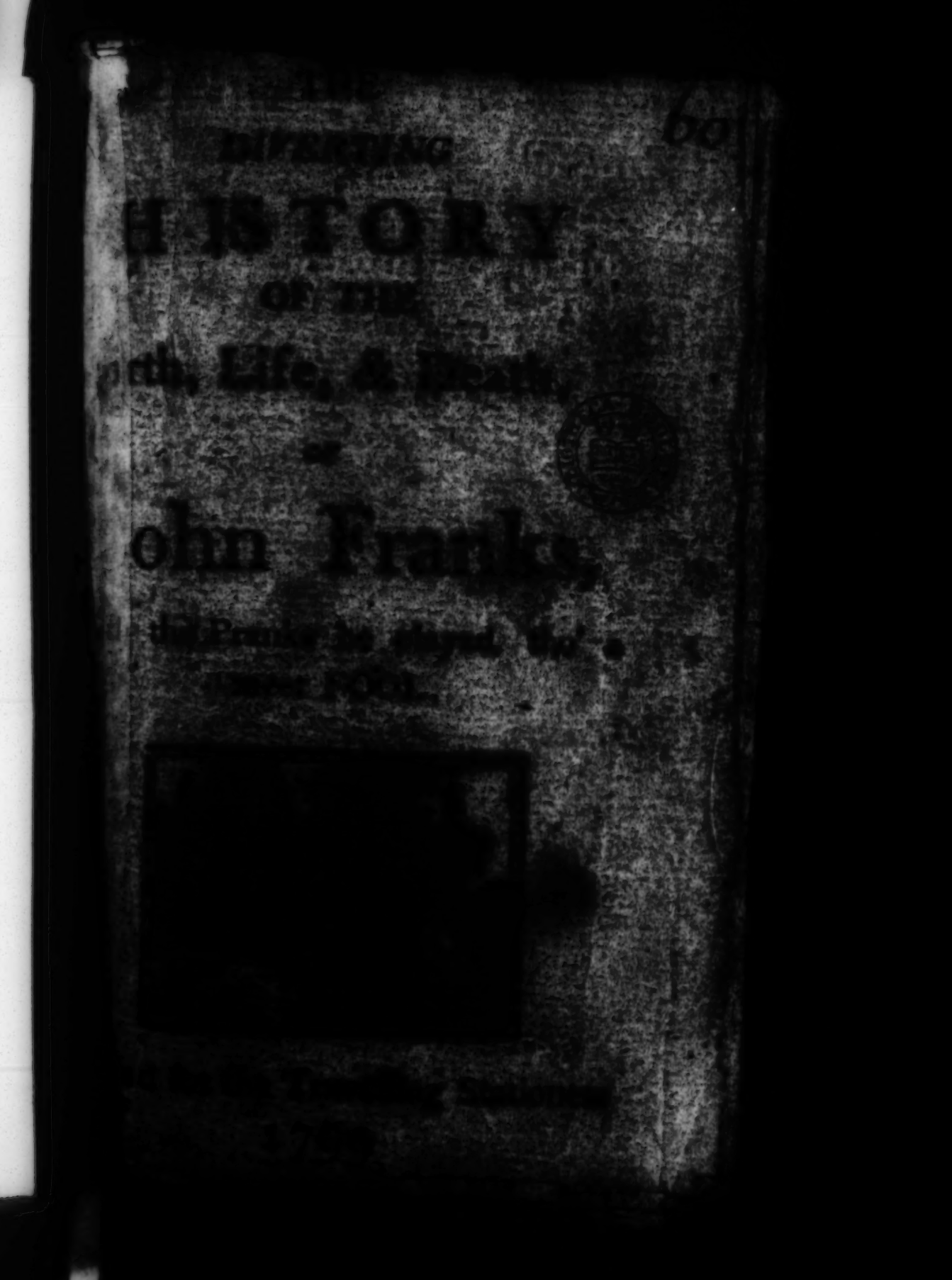

The birth and Family of John Franks

JOHN FRANKS, the reputed ſon of John Ward, was born al much Eaſton in Eſſex, within three miles of Dunmow. He had no friends to take care of him; but his being ſuch a fool was the cauſe of his well being; for every one was in love with the ſport he made.

When he was grown to be of man's ſtatue, there was a worthy knight, who took him to keep, where he did many ſtrange pranks.

He was a comely perſon, & had a good complection, his hair was of a dark flaxen. He was of a middle ſtature & good countenance. If his tongue had not betrayed his folly, he might have been taken for a wiſe man.

THE

THE MAD CONCEITS OF John Franks.

CHAP. II.

Of John's merry Trick, put upon his master's caterer.

THE caterer of his family going on day to market to buy some fish for his master's dinner, took Jack t bring them home. Having bough some, he put it in a basket, & gave it t the fool, saying, Go home quickly Jac Aye, says Jack, I will. So parting wi the fool, he went about some oth business. Poor Jack marched towar

boy, who seeing by his habit he was a fool, asked him what he had in his basket? Fish said Jack. What bird is that you have got, will you give it me? It is a parrot; says the boy, and I will give it you for your fish.------The fool soon agreed, took the magpie & went joyfully home, but not till the afternoon where he found the cook fretting for the fish. Says Jack, I have got a fine parrot? Sirrah, says the cook again, where is the fish---I gave them a boy fer this fine parrot; was it not well done Mr. Cook.

The cook and the rest of the company could not forbear smiling, and so said no more to him.

CHAP. III.

Jack lay with a taylor, and is found the next morning astride a high beam in the chamber, and the taylor dead in the bed with his neck broke.

THE Knight where Jack lived kept a poor taylor in his house, with whom lay with the fool.

One morning they wondered that the taylor nor Jack did not come down one of the servants going up, found the door faft, and calling to them, Jack only anfwered them; fo calling more affiftance, and breaking open the door, they found the taylor dead in his bed, with his neck broke & the fool fet aftride on a high beam, whence he could not come down without help. They afked Jack how it was? He said the devil came up ftairs, clink, clink, clink, & came to the bed fide, & I cried, good devil, do not take me take the taylor; fo the devil brcke the taylor's neck & fet me on the beam.

Jack was ftrictly examined at Chelmsford Aflizes, and several times after; but he always kept in one ftory & never seemed concerned.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Jack is accused by a Wench of being the father of a baſtard child.

A Wench being got with child, and not rightly knowing who was the father of it, ſhe being had before a juſtice of the peace, & examined by him, laid it on John Franks. Jack being ſent for, the juſtice aſked him, if he was the father of the wench's child? The fool was ſo innocent, that he knew not the meaning thereof, but ſtood ſtaring and laughing, ſhaking one or the other by the hand that ſtood by him.

The juſtice then ſaid to him, Are you guilty Jack? I guilded, ſaid Jack, I have guilded the company all over.—The juſtice perceiving he did not underſtand his examination, he ſaid to the wench, Huſſey, you muſt ſeek another father for your child; ſo giving orders for her puniſhmen, Jack was freed & went laughing away at the company.

CHAP.

CHAP V.

Jack deceives the Sexton, and gets into a church to preach.

ONE day, Jack having a mind to be fine, asked one of the servants to lend him a black suit of of cloaths, & a band and cloak. What would you do with it, sirrah? said the man. I must go to preach, said Jack. The servant willing to see what he would do, consented, and then put them on. Now, says he says he to the servant, I must go preach; and went out into the park alone; the servants, however, followed him, to see what he would be at, but he gave them the slip, and went to a village about fix miles off, and inquired for the sexton's house, which when he had found, he knocked at the door. The Sexton coming and making a low reverence, Art thou the sexton, says Jack; Yes sir, says the sexton. Open the chruch door, and toll the bell immediately, says Jack, for I must preach here this afternoon. I will, Sir, replies the sexton. So the poor man not per-

giving who e was. went and did as he was bid. Jack also went and placed himself in ie desk.

The people as they came in made a low reverence, expecting something extraordinary from him by his grave & devout appearance. At length Jack rises, pulls off his hat, turns over leaves of the book, then gets up into the pulpit very devoutly, and sitting down, as though he would pray. The people

wondering at his silence in the desk, they still kept their eyes fixed upon him, when at last Jack rising

of his seat and having a common prayer-book in his hand, thus speaks to them: Beloved, said he, my text is in the 44th chapter of St. John, and the 100th verse. Then shutting the book again, he began to preach, as he called it, speaking such gibberish as amazed the people. Some turned over the leaves of their books to find the text, others thought he spoke greek and latin, because they did not understand him. At length they found themselves deceived, which they had all known before, had it not been for his black cloaths; so they went home, much ashamed to themselves tricked by a fool.

Jack was very proud he had preached, & went strutting home to his master's house, where all the servants was glad to see him, for the wondered what was become of him; but when they heard what he had done, they laughed very heartily.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Jack deives Mr. Sorrel, a rich Yo
man his puddings and links, th
hang up in a chimney.

JACK was often upon the ramble
one day he went to a yoeman
houſe, who loved to make ſport wit
him. The ſervants being all buſy an
abroad, none but the fool & he wer
together. Mr Sorrel, says Jack, ſha
we play at blind man buff? Aye, says
he, with all my heart, Jack. You ſha
be blinded, says Jack. That I will Jack
ſaid he. So pinning a napkin abou
his eyes and head, now turn abou
says Jack; but you ſee Mr. Sorrel
you ſee: No, Jack, ſaid he, I do no
ſee, Jack ſhuffled about the kitchen
in order to catch him, ſtill crying you
ſee; but when he found he did no
ſee, he ran to the chimney, and whip
down ſome puddings, and put them
into his pockets; this he did every

he he came to that end of the room, he had filled his pockets and eeches. The door being open, away ns Jack ha[illegible] the good man ndfolded, who wandering he did t hear the fool cried out, Jack, ack; but finding no answer, he pul- off the napkin, and seeing the fool one, and that he had taken so many uddings with him, was so enraged at he sent a blood hound after him; hich when Jack perceived, he takes pudding and flings at them: the gs smelling the pudding, Jack gain- ground the while: And still as the gs pursued he threw a pudding at em, and thus he did till he came to house. This was spread abroad to e shame and vexation of the farmer. ome time after Mr. Sorrel & some ther tenants went to see the fool after. Jack espying them, went and old his mistress that Mr. Sorrel was me. The lady being afraid the fool ight offend him by speaking of the uddings, told Jack he should be whip- d if he mentioned them. But when ey were at dinner, Jack went and

ſhaked Mr Sorrel by the hand, ſaying, How is it, Mr. Sorrel? then ſeeming to whiſper, but ſpeaking ſo loud that all the company heard him. Say not a word of the puddings, Mr. Sorrel-- At this they all burſt into laughter; but the honeſt man was ſo aſhamed, that he never came there again. Ever ſince it is bye word to ſay, Not a word of the puddings.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Jack's Trick upon a Gentleman who had a very great nose.

THERE was a gentleman who came often to his lord's table who had a very great nose, which every one would be taking notice of; and in his absence if the fool should at any time speak of it to the gentleman, he was chid for prating: so that they thought he would speak of it no more. But one day this gentleman being there at dinner, the fool stands by him, and peeping in his face, cried out, This gentleman has no nole at all! At which they all burst into a laughter, but the gentleman was much ashamed.

CHAP. VIII.

Jack hires a servant to dwell with him.

JACK having borrowed a scarlet cloak a fine laced band, & a good hat, he puts them on, throwing his cloak over his shoulders, he went immediately into the park, where many people paſſed through upon sufference; & there Jack walking up and down very proudly a poor man came up to him; thinking he had been a gentleman. I will give you nothing said Jack, why don't you work? So I would sir, said the poor if I could get any. What can you do? said Jack, can you pump water, carry wood, and wash foul haſkets? If it pleaſe you, sir, I can, What wages muſt I give you? What you please, sir, said the beggar. Then ſaid Jack I'll give you three pounds a year. I thank your worship, quoth he. Come home with me, said the fool. Then Jack came home to the lord's house, and th

...ch, he asked the man divers ques-
...ns. At last came the lord's steward.
...o hearing Jack, talk to the man, &
...der him his business, stood awhile to
...ar: then stepping to Jack, said How
...w, Jack, have you hired a servant
...is morning? Yes, said the fool, laugh-
...ig. The poor man then perceiving
...hat he was deceived, did not know
...which way to look: but however he
...was disappointed in his master. yet he
...obtained a bountiful alms from the
...ord; who with the rest of the family
...ere much pleased with the conceit of
...he fool.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Jack complains of Mary Dover for no cleaning him, he having bewraye himself on taking physick.

THERE was also in this Lord' houſe a woman fool, whoſe nam was Mary Dover, & ſhe was employe by every one to do the meaneſt office. Jack had alwas a delight in taking an kind of physick, & his wife as he calle her, then being the laundry maid, call ed him to his usual work to beat th buck.

Poor Jack pulled off his doublet, as a other times, & ſtood beating the liner till he bewrayed himſelf, ſo that it ra down to his heels. the fool finding hi ſhoes and ſtockings in ſuch a conditio cried out aloud to Mary Dover to mak him clean, but ſhe refuſed to do it. h came crying into the parlour in hi ſhitten condition, where his lady ſa at ſupper, complaining he had beſh himſelf, and Mary Dover would no

ean him. The lady & the reſt of the
ompany could not ſit at table for the
ink, yet could not forbear laughing to
e him ſo ſurpriſed, & cry ſo much;
t his preſence at that time not being
be indured, ſhe commanded one of the
rvents to lead him out of the room, &
d Mary Dover do that office; for none
e would make him clean; & when
who cleaned, he came in again, and
de them very good ſport.

CHAP. X.

Jack's going to an Inn at Whitford
Bridge, & how he ſerved the people of
e houſe.

JACK having rambled about till he
was very hungry, went immediate-
y into an Inn at Whitford-bridge, &
ked the hoſt what he could have for
pper? The hoſt knowing he was a
rd's fool, and imagining he had mo-
y offered him a good breaſt of mut-

ton, which was then ready roasted, of which Jack was very glad, for he loved fat meat very well; so a napkin being laid, and bread and drink brought, he sat down and eat & drank it up, and asking what was to pay, they told him two-pence. Here, says he, are two brass farthings, pay yourself and give me the change. They laughing, asked him him for more, but he said he had no more, so they let him go quietly.

CHAP. XI.

Jack's trick on a justice of the peace, who pretended to jest with him.

A Justice of the peace being at his Lord's table one day, who delighted to jest with every one, and the fool being in the room, to make them some sport and having then a new calf-skin suit on, red & white spotted, and a young puppy in his arms, much the same coulour; he said to the justice, as he jogged him, Is not

this puppy like me? the juſtice ſaid, it is very much like thee, now there are two puppies, Jack, ha ha Jack after going down ſtairs to dinner, returned again and ſtricking the Juſtice on the back with his fiſt, the Juſtice ſeemed angry. How is it Juſtice, ſaid Jack, are you angry? ſet us ſhake hands and be friends, the Juſtice gave him his hand, and the fool cried ont, laughing, now here are two fools.

At this they all laughed heartily, to ſee this great wit affronted by a fool, eſpecially by a gentleman whom the Juſtice had but a few minutes before abuſed by his jeſting.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Jack's pretty Sayings and Jeſts, with an account of his death.

JACK's Lord and Lady going one day in a coach, Jack ran by the ſide of it, and upon their way they met another lord's coach, whoſe gentleman riding by the coach, and ſeeing Jack, he put off his hat in deriſion, and bowed, ſaying, pray whoſe fool are you? the fool preſently pulled off his cap and ſhaking his ears, ſaid. I am my Lord M---r's fool, pray whoſe fool are you? the gentleman being thus ſharply anſwered, was much aſhamed and rode away.

Jack ſtanding by one time where ſome gentlemen were talking, hearing them talk of roundheads; Roundheads, ſaid Jack why, a Round-

head is one that hath no wit at all, give me your hand, sir, said Jack--The Gentleman did so, Ha! ha! ha! said the fool, and shaked it, there I mumpt you. The rest laughed at him, at which he was vexed.

One night the lady being at supper, Jack came into the room, bawling aloud that he could not get the coachman to buy him a chamber pot. Madam, said he, the coachman won;t buy me a pot, and I am forced to rise in the night to make water in the open yard in my shirt, and so catch cold by it; must not I have some sugar candy madam? The lady laughed to hear how reasonable he was in his request, so gave orders to the coachman to buy him what he wanted.

One time Jack coming late to dinner in the hall, & seeing there was no room for him at table, he ran forth & came presently in again, saying, Do you hear, sirs, the King is come into the back yard with his coach and six horses and a great many with him; upon which, not knowing what to think, the all ran out to see. In the mean time

Jack sat down, and carved for himself. They coming into the yard, and finding none there but themselves, laughed heartily to think how the fool had outwitted them.

He went duly morning & evening to prayers in the chapel, though he had no understanding, and each night he would pray by himself in his chamber to this purpole.

"Lord thou knoweft I can do nothing of myfelf; Lord thou knoweft I can do nothing; Lord have mercy upon me, and help me."

He lived about fourscore years, and died in the Knight's house, where he was handfomely burried; all who knew him being sorry for his death, poor fool who had never done evil, but through evil examples.

There might be more said of him but that may serve for a second part.—These ftories I hope will be more pleafing as they are true.

FINIS.

AT *John Tregortha'*

PRINTING OFFICE IN

BURSLEM,

Shopkeepers and Travellers

May be supplied on the most reasonable term
a good assortment of godly & other Patter
Children's Books, among which are, —
Robinson Crusoe—Babes in the Wood—Paternus
Cinderella—Whittington & his Cat—Philip Quarll
Parents best Gift—Puzzle Cap—House that Ja
&c. &c. &c. Together with the followi
STORIES, viz.

ART of Cookery,
in the Wood,
Book of remembrance,
Chase,
Faustus
Love,
Bacon 2 pts.
Rotamond,
German Fortune Teller,
Historical Instructor,
John Gilpin,
King & Cobler 2 pts.
Moll Flanders,
Merry Piper,
Mother Bunch 2 pts.
New Riddle Book,
Parents best gift,
Robin Hood,
Robinson Crusoe,
Thomas Hickathrift o
Two Soldiers,
Valentine & Orson,
Wat Tyler & Jack St
Whittington & his C
&c. &c. &c. &c.

☞ School Bibles, Testaments, Sp
ing Books, Reading-made-Easy's, &
*** Children's Lotteries, Copy-b
Covers, &c. &c. &c. in great var